

HJR 59 -- BINGO

SPONSOR: Brown (57)

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on General Laws by a vote of 10 to 3. Voted "Do Pass" by the Rules-Legislative Oversight Committee by a vote of 12 to 0.

Upon voter approval, this Constitutional amendment would require any person participating in the management of any bingo game conducted by a service organization to be a member of the organization for at least six months. The current requirement is that the person be a member for two years. It also removes a restriction on advertising for bingo games.

This bill is the same as HJR 10 (2017) and HJR 58 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that this Constitutional amendment will allow newer, more active, members of qualified organizations to participate in the operation of bingo games. There is no reason for the current two-year membership requirement. Bingo games are a common fundraising source for charitable organizations and this would alleviate some of the pressure on older members.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Brown and the Missouri Press Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.